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New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 60th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. HADID (Algeria)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. MSELLE

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The meeting was called to order at 8.25 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 164: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION UGANDA-RWANDA (continued)

1. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the members of the Committee should continue consideration of agenda item 164 and drew their attention to draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.54, which had been prepared on the basis of informal consultations and submitted by the representative of Cuba on behalf of the Chairman.

2. Ms. GOICOCHEA (Cuba) introduced draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.54 and hoped that it would be adopted without a vote.

3. The CHAIRMAN said he took it that the Committee wished to adopt draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.54 without a vote.

4. Draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.54 was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 173: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE MISSION FOR RWANDA (continued)

5. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should continue its consideration of agenda item 173 and drew its attention to draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.55, which had been prepared on the basis of informal consultations and submitted by the representative of Cuba on behalf of the Chairman.

6. Ms. GOICOCHEA (Cuba) introduced draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.55 and expressed the hope that it would be adopted without a vote.

7. The CHAIRMAN said he took it that the Committee wished to adopt draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.55 without a vote.

8. Draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.55 was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 138: ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY ASPECTS OF THE FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS (continued)

9. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should continue consideration of agenda item 138 and, in particular, the report of the Secretary-General on the support account for peace-keeping operations, and drew its attention to draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.56, which had been prepared on the basis of informal consultations and submitted by the representative of Cuba on behalf of the Chairman.

10. Ms. GOICOCHEA (Cuba) introduced draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.56 and hoped that it would be adopted without a vote.

11. Mr. STITT (United Kingdom) requested clarification on two procedural points. First, the draft resolution under consideration did not reflect the fact that it had been prepared on the basis of informal consultations. Second, the draft resolution had been submitted in provisional form. He wondered whether that meant that the Committee had to suspend the application of rule 120 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly before taking a decision on the draft resolution.

12. Mr. ACAKPO-SATCHIVI (Committee Secretary) said that the document under consideration was the preliminary version of the draft resolution, which had been submitted in provisional form in order to ensure, in view of the limited amount of time, speedier consideration of the draft and the taking of a decision on it. That practice had been used and was being used in the Fifth Committee, the General Assembly and, particularly, the Security Council. Subsequently, the text submitted would be edited and would reflect the fact that it had been prepared on the basis of informal consultations. With regard to the question of suspending the application of rule 120 of the rules of procedure, he pointed out again that as a rule after the adoption of a draft resolution submitted in provisional form, the text was edited and then issued as a document for general distribution. That was the practice of the General Assembly.

13. The CHAIRMAN said he took it that the Committee wished to adopt draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.56 without a vote.

14. Draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.56 was adopted.

15. Mr. STÖCKL (Germany) said that although his delegation had supported the idea of retaining the 26 additional posts in the Department of Administration and Management from the very start of the discussion of the item under consideration, it wished to receive information from the Secretariat on the geographic distribution of all the approved posts for the support account for peace-keeping operations.

16. Mr. TAKASU (Controller) expressed appreciation to the members of the Committee for approving the 26 posts for the Department of Administration and Management, which were necessary in order to ensure that the Department discharged its functions in meeting the needs of peace-keeping operations. The Secretariat would do everything possible in order, in accordance with paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 48/226 of 23 December 1993 and the draft resolution just adopted, to submit a report containing specific proposals and the reasoning with regard to the framework and use of the support account and the regular budget for financing peace-keeping operations, as well as the corresponding proposals by the Secretary-General concerning requirements with regard to the support account.

AGENDA ITEM 165: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN HAITI (continued)

17. Ms. ROTHEISER (Austria) introduced draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.60, which had been prepared on the basis of informal consultations, and recommended its adoption without a vote.

18. Mr. STITT (United Kingdom) said that his delegation was willing to consider the document, notwithstanding rule 120 of the rules of procedure, largely because it had been prepared on the basis of consensus and had been approved in informal consultations before being submitted to the Committee.

19. Mr. SPAANS (Netherlands) said that his delegation felt that the flexible procedure for the consideration of the question and the adoption of the decision should not become a precedent for the adoption of other decisions by the Committee; members of the Committee were fully entitled to carry out a careful and thorough consideration of proposals that were submitted. His delegation would pay very close attention to the Committee's needs in terms of having sufficient time and information for the adoption of decisions.

20. The CHAIRMAN said that the comments made by the representatives of the United Kingdom and the Netherlands should not be regarded as a proposal to postpone the adoption of decisions on the basis of documents in mimeographed form. If he heard no further comments, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.60 without a vote.

21. Draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.60 was adopted.

22. Mr. DAMICO (Brazil) said that his delegation had joined in the consensus on draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.60 on the understanding that the General Assembly would revert to the question in the event that talks between the Government of Haiti and the de facto authorities in Port-au-Prince made possible a full-scale deployment of the United Nations mission in Haiti.

The meeting was suspended at 9.10 p.m. and resumed at 9.40 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 123: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1994-1995 (continued)

Revised estimates under sections 3, 4 and 11A: United Nations Special Coordinator in the Occupied Territories (A/C.5/48/71)

23. Mr. TAKASU (Controller) introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the revised estimates under sections 3, 4 and 11A (A/C.5/48/71), in which the appointment of a United Nations Special Coordinator in the Occupied Territories was proposed. The total expenditure would amount to US$ 2,368,300 net. It was the Secretary-General's understanding that that expenditure would be covered from the contingency fund. He apologized for the late submission of the report, which had been due to the fact that it had been necessary to make a very careful analysis of the situation.

24. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that, because of the late submission of the report of the Secretary-General, there had been no time to issue the related report of the Advisory Committee. Having considered the report of the Secretary-General, the Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly should authorize the

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Secretary-General, subject to the guidelines for the use and operation of the contingency fund, to enter into commitments in the amount of US$ 1,441,200 gross (US$ 1,140,000 net) under section 4 of the proposed programme budget, for the establishment of four temporary posts (one ASG, one D-1, one P-5 and one General Service post for the period from 1 April 1994 to 31 December 1995. The Advisory Committee also recommended that the General Assembly should authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in the amount of US$ 130,000 for the period for from 1 April to 30 June 1994 for non-post requirements, pending his submission of information to supplement paragraph 15 of the report.

25. Mr. SY (Senegal) said that the question was of enormous significance for peace and security in the Middle East, especially in view of the current situation following the Hebron massacre. He supported the Advisory Committee's recommendations, including the recommendation that the Secretary-General should provide additional information by May 1994 to supplement the information given in paragraph 15 of his report.

26. Mr. NDOBOLI (Uganda) supported the Advisory Committee's recommendations, which coincided with the view of his delegation.

27. Mr. JERANDI (Tunisia) said that his delegation could support the establishment of the post of United Nations Special Coordinator in the Occupied Territories but felt that it should be raised to the level of Under-Secretary-General. His delegation proposed that the Committee should support the Advisory Committee's recommendations.

28. The CHAIRMAN read out the following draft decision:

> "Having considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/48/71) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, the Fifth Committee recommends that the General Assembly authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments, for the establishment of four temporary posts, in an amount not to exceed US$ 1,140,000 for the period from 1 April 1994 to 31 December 1995, on the understanding that the Special Coordinator will be at the Under-Secretary-General level. The Fifth Committee also recommends that the General Assembly authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in an amount not to exceed US$ 130,100 for the period from 1 April to 30 June 1994 in connection with non-post requirements, pending the submission by the Secretary-General of the report requested by the Advisory Committee."

29. Mr. STÖCKL (Germany) said that his delegation could agree to the establishment of the post of Special Coordinator only at the Assistant Secretary-General level.

30. Mr. SPAANS (Netherlands) proposed that the words "Under-Secretary-General" in the draft decision should be replaced by the words "Assistant Secretary-General".

31. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt the draft decision, as orally amended.

32. The draft decision, as orally amended, was adopted.

33. Mr. HAMIDA (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya), speaking on behalf of the Group of Arab States, said that the proposal to establish the post of United Nations Special Coordinator in the Occupied Territories came at a very opportune time when the Palestinian people were in great need of international assistance and support. It was also very timely in the light of recent events in the region, including the Hebron massacre.

34. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had completed the current stage of its consideration of agenda item 123; he requested the Rapporteur to report thereon direct to the General Assembly.

35. Mr. ZAHID (Morocco) said that, according to the Journal of the United Nations, the fourth item on the agenda of the current meeting was "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara" and that on that item there was a draft resolution in mimeographed form. He asked whether the Committee would be taking up that item, since his delegation wished to make a statement on it.

36. The CHAIRMAN said that there was no document on the financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) or on the financing of the International Tribunal. The text prepared initially with the provisional symbol A/C.5/48/L.59 had not been the subject of informal consultations. He intended to give the parties concerned the opportunity to reach decisions on those two matters and then discuss them in informal consultations.

37. Mr. ZAHID (Morocco) said that the text with the provisional symbol A/C.5/48/L.59 had in fact not been the subject of a consensus and should not have been given the subheading "Draft resolution submitted by the Chairman following informal consultations". His delegation wished to propose a number of amendments, the first of which was to delete the reference to Security Council resolution 690 (1991), under which MINURSO had been established. Other proposed amendments provided for the following: re-establishment of the post of Special Representative at the level of Assistant Secretary-General, an appeal to the Secretary-General to review his recommendation to ACABQ on using the services of the Special Representative only for "carrying out specific tasks" and to submit his report to the resumed session of the General Assembly, and also a paragraph on approval of expenditures.

The meeting was suspended at 10.25 p.m. and resumed at 11.35 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 130: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING FORCES IN THE MIDDLE EAST (continued)

(a) UNITED NATIONS DISENGAGEMENT OBSERVER FORCE (continued)

(b) UNITED NATIONS INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON (continued)

38. Mr. KABIR (Bangladesh), Rapporteur, said that during the informal consultations that had just been held, it had been possible to come very close to agreeing on the financing of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF). Owing to lack of time, however, it had not been possible to reach agreement on the financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). In that connection, there had been agreement on taking a provisional measure: authorizing the Secretary-General to assume commitments for a two-month period. The text of the draft decision on the financing of UNDOF read:

"The General Assembly,

Recalling its decision 48/463 of 23 December 1993 on the financing of the United Nations Disengagement Force,

1. Decides, on an exceptional basis, to authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for the maintenance of the Disengagement Force for the period from 1 April to 31 May 1994 in an amount of $5,360,000 gross ($5,198,000 net);

2. Also decides to consider this agenda item at the earliest possible opportunity during the next resumed session".

The text of the draft decision on the financing of UNIFIL read:

"The General Assembly,

Recalling its decision 48/464 of 23 December 1993 on the financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon,

1. Decides, on an exceptional basis, to authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for the maintenance of the Interim Force for the period from 1 April to 31 May 1994 in an amount of $23,714,000 gross ($22,949,000 net);

2. Also decides to consider this agenda item at the earliest possible opportunity during the next resumed session".

He suggested that the two draft decisions should be adopted without a vote.

39. The CHAIRMAN said that in the draft decision on the financing of UNDOF the phrase "United Nations Disengagement Force" should read "United Nations Disengagement Observer Force". He suggested that the Committee should adopt the draft decisions on the financing of UNDOF and UNIFIL without a vote.

40. It was so decided.

41. Mr. BARIMANI (Islamic Republic of Iran), speaking in explanation of position, said that if the draft decisions under consideration had been put to a vote, his delegation would have abstained.

AGENDA ITEM 162: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVATION MISSION IN GEORGIA (continued)

42. The CHAIRMAN submitted orally a draft decision on the agenda item, which read:

"The General Assembly,

Recalling its decision 48/475 of 23 December 1993 on the financing of the United Nations Observation Mission in Georgia,

Decides, on an exceptional basis, to authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for the maintenance of the United Nations Observation Mission in Georgia for the period from 1 April to 31 May 1994 in an amount of $600,000 ($558,000 net)."

43. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), replying to a query by the representative of the Netherlands, said that earlier the General Assembly, in accordance with the recommendation by the Fifth Committee contained in the report of the Fifth Committee of 23 December 1993 (A/48/823), decided to authorize the Secretary-General to enter into a commitment with regard to the United Nations Observation Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) for the period from 24 August 1993 to 31 March 1994. With regard to the expiration of that mandate, the Fifth Committee should take a decision on the further financing of the Mission. The Advisory Committee, having reviewed the most recent report of the Secretary-General on the item, in document A/48/699/Add.1 of 24 March 1994, recommended the adoption of the draft decision proposed. ACABQ suggested adopting the draft decision in question with the following amendment: in the second paragraph after the word "basis" insert the words "and pending consideration of the report of the Secretary-General (A/48/669 and Add.1) and the corresponding report of ACABQ".

44. Mr. BOIN (France) said that in view of the exceptional circumstances his delegation was prepared to support the adoption of the draft decision with the oral amendments proposed by the Chairman of ACABQ. Furthermore, he proposed establishing a time-limit for the consideration of the reports of the General Assembly (A/48/699/Add.1) and ACABQ.

45. Mr. ABELIAN (Armenia) asked whether the provisions of Security Council resolution 906 (1994) of 25 March 1994 had been taken into account in drawing up the draft decision under consideration.

46. Mr. ZAHID (Morocco) said that his delegation was prepared to support the proposed draft decision with the oral amendments made to it, as an exception, in view of the circumstances that had arisen and requested the Secretariat not to consider that situation a precedent in drawing up future decisions. He also hoped that the members of the Committee would demonstrate the same constructive approach in settling the question of the financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO).

47. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), responding to the questions raised by the representatives of Armenia and France, said that the proposals contained in the report of the Secretary-General (A/48/699/Add.1) had been formulated with due regard for the relevant Security Council resolution, and that the Fifth Committee could revert to consideration of that question at the resumed session of the General Assembly from 25 April to 6 May 1994.

48. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should adopt the draft decision, as orally amended, with due regard for the time-frame proposed by the Chairman of ACABQ.

49. It was so decided.

50. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt the draft decision, as orally revised, without a vote.

51. The draft decision was adopted.

52. Mr. ZAHID (Morocco), speaking in explanation of his delegation's position on the question of the financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), pointed out that, although the draft resolution on the financing of MINURSO (A/C.5/48/L.59) was apparently not the text proposed by the Chairman, it did include the amendments proposed by Morocco. On the basis of that text, Morocco proposed two additional amendments, after which he believed that the Committee could adopt a decision on the question at its current meeting. The first of those amendments related to the post of Under-Secretary-General and the second to the temporary time-frame for the retention of the post of Special Representative. Taking into account those amendments, which had already been discussed on several occasions during the informal consultations, the Committee could adopt a decision on the question, which was particularly important in view of the fact that the official mandate for the financing of MINURSO had already expired. He hoped that the decision could be taken without a vote.

53. Mr. KHENE (Algeria) said that, during the informal consultations, the Vice-Chairman had introduced two amendments to the Chairman's text, the so-called "long" text and the "short" text. Both amendments had been acceptable to all delegations, including his own; however, the delegation of Morocco had introduced two amendments of its own which had not been retained in the final text. It was thus not possible to continue discussing the matter at a formal meeting of the Committee. However, his delegation expressed its readiness to participate in informal consultations on the question.

54. Mr. ZAHID (Morocco) explained that his delegation was not opposed to the amendments which had been introduced to document A/C.5/48/L.59. He then read out the text of the two amendments proposed by his delegation and suggested that document A/C.5/48/L.59 should be adopted with the amendments proposed by Morocco during the informal meeting.

55. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the meeting should be suspended in order to allow the representative of Morocco an opportunity to discuss with the interested parties the amendments he had proposed in informal consultations.

56. Mr. ZAHID (Morocco) said his delegation believed that there was no need to hold informal consultations since such consultations had already been conducted by the Vice-Chairman, who had reported to the Committee on the results of his work.

57. The CHAIRMAN asked whether the proposal of the representative of Morocco was acceptable to all members of the Committee.

58. Mr. DAMICO (Brazil) proposed that, without taking a vote at a formal meeting, the Committee should study ways of resolving problems which arose during informal consultations presided over by a member of a delegation appointed for that purpose by the Chairman.

59. Mr. KHENE (Algeria) explained that his delegation was prepared to adopt draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.59 with the amendments introduced by the Vice-Chairman, but that it did not agree with the amendments proposed by Morocco as they complicated an already complicated situation. His delegation believed that resolutions on the question of the financing of United Nations peace-keeping operations should not deal with matters relating to the functional duties of individual posts. Furthermore, from a procedural standpoint, draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.59 was not an official document and the amendments proposed by Morocco had not been introduced in accordance with the official procedure. In that connection, his delegation was not in a position to participate in a discussion of the aforementioned text at a formal meeting.

60. Mr. ZAHID (Morocco) said that, despite the statements of the Algerian delegation, the text proposed by Morocco did exist, and he read out draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.59 with the amendments proposed by Morocco. The preamble referred to consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary

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Questions. He proposed that a reference to resolution 690 (1991) regarding the establishment of MINURSO should be included in a second preambular paragraph. He proposed that paragraphs 1 to 3 should be retained as they appeared in document A/C.5/48/L.59 and that paragraph 4 should state that the Secretary-General should be authorized to enter into commitments for the maintenance of MINURSO at a rate not to exceed 4.4 million dollars gross per month for a period of three months beginning 1 May 1994, with the prior concurrence of ACABQ, the said amount to be utilized from the unencumbered balance of appropriations. He proposed that paragraph 5 should include wording regarding the need to reinstate the post of Deputy Special Representative at the level of Assistant Secretary-General. In the next paragraph, the Secretary-General should be invited, in the light of the relevant Security Council resolution, to review his position with regard to the recommendations of ACABQ and to submit a report on the subject to the General Assembly at its next session. He proposed that paragraph 5 of document A/C.5/48/L.59 should be retained as the following paragraph and that the last paragraph should include a decision that the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara" should be included in the provisional agenda of the forty-ninth session or retained in the agenda of the resumed session of the General Assembly.

The meeting was suspended at 12.35 a.m. and resumed at 1.35 a.m.

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61. The CHAIRMAN suggested that, since it had not been possible during the informal consultations to resolve the issues regarding the remaining two agenda items, consideration of those two items should be postponed until the next meeting, after they had been discussed in informal consultations.

62. Mr. ZAHID (Morocco) said that, during the suspension of the meeting, he had understood that the text of his delegation's proposal was to have been prepared by the Secretariat. Since that text had not been issued, his delegation hoped that it would be ready and distributed by the Committee's next meeting.

63. The CHAIRMAN said that Morocco was entitled to introduce any proposals in accordance with the official procedure and he suggested that consideration of the agenda item in question should be postponed until the Committee's next meeting. He informed members of the Committee that on Monday, 4 April, the Bureau would appoint a coordinator to conduct informal consultations on the question of the financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991. The informal consultations on the question of the financing of MINURSO would be conducted by the Rapporteur.

The meeting rose at 1.45 a.m.